

FREE Second Quarter Report

Title: "The Corps of Re-Discovery: Updating the Lewis and Clark Journals"

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Purpose/goals of partnership/project: To contribute to the upcoming bicentennial by documenting today's views of selected Lewis and Clark journal entries using the methods and standards of today's scientists and scholars. The 200-years-later update will be maintained on a continually-evolving national website with entries contributed by students and teachers from all around the nation. Each topic mentioned in the original Lewis and Clark journals will be adopted by only one school; however an Internet-based learning community will help contribute ideas and data from their region on that same selection.

Second Quarter Goals/Objectives: Selection of partner schools; initiation of partnership agreements; orientation to project goals/objectives; launch of local school projects

Second Quarter Accomplishments: Participating schools have been identified and their journal entry selection has been approved (show list and their topics):

In some cases where teachers seemed overly-ambitious in what they might accomplish, we are allowing schools to narrow down their topics along the journey if quality will be compromised. The website where our project will be hosted was designed during this quarter and prototype testing will be underway during the third quarter. This site will have many interesting features, but our Journal Update project will be the centerpiece. For example, Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory has planned a daily summary of what Lewis and Clark were doing that date, the GPS parameters, the weather, some suggested teaching ideas based on what they encountered that day, etc.

Expenditures to Date: Rather than making two payments to participating schools, the paperwork burden will be reduced if the minigrants are made only when the school has produced its website contribution (lesson plan, student work samples, etc) in May. In the meantime, Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory has been readying the Corps of Education Partners website where this activity will be maintained during the test period. In conjunction with a separate project, a meeting with several partner schools in Idaho and Montana was held January 6-8, 2000 in Moscow ID to

Third Quarter goals/objectives: Participating schools continue planning and implementing learning activities around their selected topics; provide support and hand-holding to schools as they create prototype materials (suggest ways they can involve other schools electronically, open doors to other federal, state and nonprofit agencies and organizations with help to offer local schools); create distribution list to facilitate communication between partner schools

Good news, pleasant surprises: In at least two schools, more than one teacher will be involved in our learning community. We had first thought we would be lucky to attract one teacher and one class, but in rural Kamiah, Idaho several teachers will be involved:

Grade 5	Nez Perce games
Grade 6	Lewis's Woodpecker and Clark's Nutcracker (first identified by Lewis and Clark in the mountains near Kamiah)
Grade 7	Other local flora
Grade 8	Other local fauna

Standards they are addressing will include: computer skills/web page design; research skills; forest management; collecting, interpreting and organizing data; biology (reproduction, migration, habitat); Nez Perce culture (social activities); calculating distances. Kamiah teachers say they will assess student learning using field notes, oral presentations, drawings/sketches, digital cameras, diagrams, graphs, Nez Perce game performances, Power Point Presentations, written accounts and calculations using GPS. For the past two years, Kamiah Middle School 8th graders have been involved in an intense study of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and the role of the Nez Perce Indians in the success of the Expedition. As a culminating project, 8th graders travel to the place where the Corps of Discovery met the Nez Perce (Mussellshell Workcenter- USFS) and stay 3 days and 2 nights. While here they sleep in teepees and go out in the field to collect and

analyze flora and fauna specimens. They also participate in hands-on workshops related to Nez Perce foods, gathering (roots) drumming, dancing, and other cultural activities. Several guests share experiences and expertise related to Lewis and Clark during the 3-day period. The experience is intended to be as authentic as possible to give students a flavor of what it was like 200 years ago.

Challenges, difficulties, needs: Some of the administrative aspects of the project have been delayed until the new Superintendent of Fort Clatsop National Memorial could arrive (officially January 17). It is comforting that much of this project relies on Internet communication since it is increasingly difficult for teachers to leave their classrooms. Shortage of qualified substitute teachers is a growing concern.

Early lessons: The number of Lewis and Clark-related websites continues to grow. However, much of the content on these sites is of dubious quality for teachers and students and there is yet no way for these sites to be screened for quality.

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